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General Assembly

Fifty-second Session

Official Records

43rd plenary meeting
Monday, 3 November 1997, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Udovenko . . . . . (Ukraine)

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

Agenda item 15 (*continued*)

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

The President: This morning, the General Assembly will continue with the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 1997.

As members will recall, when the 41st plenary meeting was adjourned on Thursday, 30 October, there still remained one seat from among the Latin American and Caribbean States to be filled. We must therefore proceed to an unrestricted ballot.

This fifth round of balloting is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

May I remind the Assembly that for this round of unrestricted balloting, any Member State from among the Latin American and Caribbean States may be a candidate, except those which will remain members of the Economic and Social Council as of 1 January 1998 and those which have already been elected for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1998.

To clarify this, I shall read out the names of those Members from among the Latin American and Caribbean States which cannot be voted for in the present balloting: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guyana, Mexico and Nicaragua.

Ballot papers marked "D" will now be distributed. May I request representatives to write on the ballot papers marked "D", for the Latin American and Caribbean States, the name of the one State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked "D" bearing more than one name will be declared invalid.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Silva (Angola), Mr. Thinley (Bhutan), Mr. Jerónimo (Portugal) and Mrs. Kimliková (Slovakia), acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 11.10 a.m. and resumed at 11.35 a.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group D — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	173
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	173
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	172

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For the four vacant seats from among the Asian States, there are six candidates, namely, India, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar and Viet Nam.

For the Eastern European States, there are three candidates for two vacant seats: Belarus, Georgia, and Poland.

For the three vacant seats from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, there are five candidates: Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Peru and Saint Lucia.

The Group of Western European and other States has endorsed four candidates for four vacant seats: Belgium, Italy, New Zealand and the United States of America.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall now proceed to the election by secret ballot.

Ballot papers marked "A", "B", "C", "D" and "E" will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to write on them the names of the States for which they wish to vote.

A ballot paper containing more names from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it will be declared invalid. Names of Member States on a ballot paper which do not belong to that region will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Silva (Angola), Mrs. Dorjee (Bhutan), Mr. Tovar Morillo (Dominican Republic), Mr. Jerónimo (Portugal) and Mrs. Kimliková (Slovakia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.45 a.m. and resumed at 12.10 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A — African States

Number of ballot papers:	175
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	175
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	173
Required two-thirds majority:	116
Number of votes obtained:	
Algeria	171
Sierra Leone	167
Comoros	166
Lesotho	163
Mauritius	163
Benin	2
Cameroon	1
Liberia	1
Niger	1
Nigeria	1
Sudan	1

Group B — Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	175
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	175
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	175
Required two-thirds majority:	117
Number of votes obtained:	
Viet Nam	137
Pakistan	126
India	111
Malaysia	104
Oman	104
Qatar	85
Yemen	4
Bahrain	2
Indonesia	1
Uzbekistan	1

Group C — Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers:	175
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	175
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	174
Required two-thirds majority:	116
Number of votes obtained:	
Belarus	120
Poland	109
Georgia	107
Ukraine	5
Bulgaria	1

Group D — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	175
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	175
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	174
Required two-thirds majority:	116
Number of votes obtained:	
Colombia	118
Brazil	115
Peru	103
Guatemala	96
Saint Lucia	61
Panama	3
Venezuela	2
Bolivia	1
Honduras	1

Group E — Western European and other States

Number of ballot papers:	175
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	175
Abstentions:	6
Number of members voting:	169
Required two-thirds majority:	113
Number of votes obtained:	
Belgium	164
Italy	164
New Zealand	162
United States	157
Greece	1
Netherlands	1

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Algeria, Belarus, Belgium, Colombia, the Comoros, Italy, Lesotho, Mauritius, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, the United States of America and Viet Nam were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1998.

The President: I congratulate the States which have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council.

The following seats remain to be filled: two from among the Asian States, one from among the Eastern European States and two from among the Latin American and Caribbean States.

We shall therefore proceed to the first restricted ballot.

The second round of balloting shall be restricted to the four States from among the Asian States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot — namely, India, Malaysia, Oman and Qatar; to the two States from among the Eastern European States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot — namely, Georgia and Poland; and to the four States from among the Latin American and Caribbean States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot — namely, Brazil, Guatemala, Peru and Saint Lucia.

This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Ballot papers marked "B", "C" and "D" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the names of the States for which they wish to vote.

Ballot papers marked "B", for the Asian States, will be declared invalid if they contain the names of States other than India, Malaysia, Oman or Qatar, as well as if they contain the names of more than two States.

Ballot papers marked "C", for the Eastern European States, will be declared invalid if they contain the names of States other than Georgia or Poland, as well as if they contain the names of more than one State.

Ballot papers marked "D", for the Latin American and Caribbean States, will be declared invalid if they contain the names of States other than Brazil, Guatemala, Peru or Saint Lucia, as well as if they contain the names of more than two States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Silva (Angola), Mrs. Dorjee (Bhutan), Mr. Tovar Morillo (Dominican Republic), Mr. Jerónimo (Portugal) and Mrs. Kimliková (Slovakia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 12.30 p.m. and resumed at 1.15 p.m.